

Claims

1. Use of peptones and/or meat extract in the manufacture of an oral composition to treat the effects of infection by enterotoxin-producing pathogens.

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2. The use of claim 1 wherein the effects include failure of gut epithelial integrity, diarrhoea and other COX-2 mediated effects.

10 3. The use of claim 1 or 2 wherein the pathogen is *Clostridium difficile*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *E. coli*, *Leishmania donovani*, *Vibrio cholera*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Shingellae*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and/or *enterotoxigenic Bacteroides fragilis*.

15 4. The use of any preceding claim wherein the oral composition comprises from 0.3 to 7% by volume of peptones or meat extract.

5. The use of any preceding claim wherein the peptones are hydrolysates of whey protein with an average peptide size of not greater than 5 amino acids.

20 6. The use of any preceding claim wherein the oral composition comprises both peptones and meat extract.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the oral composition comprises from 0.3 to 7% by volume of meat extract and from 0.3 to 7% by volume of peptones.

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8. The use of any preceding claim wherein the oral composition further comprises yeast extract.

30 9. The use of claim 8 wherein the oral composition comprises from 0.01 to 5% by volume of yeast extract.

10. The use of any preceding claim wherein the oral composition is an adjuvant to a medicinal treatment.

35 11. The use of any preceding claim wherein the oral composition is an infant formula or an enteral composition.